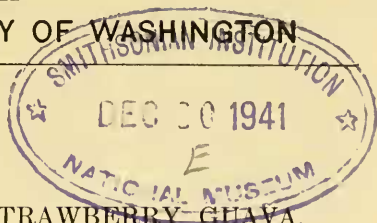


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VARIETIES OF THE STRAWBERRY-GUAVA.

BY F. R. FOSBERG.

The name used for the edible fruit commonly known as strawberry guava, or, in Hawaii, *waiwi*, or more recently among certain horticulturists, cattley guava, has long been *Psidium cattleianum* (often misspelled *cattleyanum*). The name *Psidium littorale*, if mentioned at all, was usually considered a synonym, as the original plates of the two manifestly represent the same species. This seemed correct on the basis of the dates of the volumes of the journals in which they were published—1822 and 1823, respectively, as long as the actual dates of the separate fascicles remained obscure. In the *Flora Brasiliensis* Berg described *Psidium variabile*, citing both of these earlier names as synonyms. This new name, of course, was superfluous.

Merrill and Perry (*Jour. Arn. Arb.* 19 : 199. 1938) used *P. littorale* as the correct name, giving the date as 1820. This date is that given on the fascicle cover of *Opuscoli Scientifici* 4 fasc. 23 (copy in Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass. fide Merrill in litt. 1941). *P. cattleianum* was published in the 3d fascicle of vol. 4 of the *Transactions of the Royal Horticultural Society*, which, according to Stearn (*Suppl. Cat.* 4. 1940), appeared in May or June, 1821. Thus the priority of *P. littorale* is clearly established. The synonymy is as follows:

Psidium littorale Raddi, *Opusc. Sci. Bologna* 4 : 254, t. 7. f. 2. 1820 (not 1823).

P. cattleianum Sabine, *Trans. Roy. Hort. Soc.* 4 : 315-317. t. 11. 1821 (not 1822).

P. humile Vellozo, *Fl. Flumin.* 211, Tab. 49, Tom. 5. 1825. (Plate very poor, but doubtless intended to represent this species.)

P. variabile Berg in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 14 (1) : 400. 1857.

P. coriaceum Mart ex Berg, l.c. 401.

P. coriaceum var. α *obovatum* Berg, l.c. 401.

P. coriaceum var. β *grandifolium* Berg, l.c. 401.

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P. coriaceum var. γ *longipes* Berg, l. c. 402.

P. cattleianum var. *coriaceum* (Berg) Kiaerskou, Enum. Myrt. Bras. 28. 1893.

This species is distinct and easily recognized by its cuneate obovate, weakly nerved coriaceous leaves and unwinged twigs. It includes at least two recognizable varieties, both widely cultivated. Of these one was the basis of each of the two originally described species. Their names and contrasting characters are given below.

That *P. humile* Vellozo should be referred here may be considered doubtful because of the very brief description and rough plate, but there seems to be no other species that the plate could represent. Berg, who included *P. humile* in his *P. coriaceum*, apparently maintained the latter as separate from his *P. variabile* [*P. littorale*] only on the basis of a slight puberulence on the twigs and ciliolation on leaves and sepals. Judging by a series of specimens of cultivated plants, this is a fluctuating character found now and then in both of the varieties maintained below. The two varieties of *Psidium littorale* recognized are as follows:

Psidium littorale Raddi var. **lucidum** (Degener) Fosberg, n. comb.

P. cattleianum var. *lucidum* Hort.

P. cattleianum f. *lucidum* Degener, Fl. Haw. fam. 273. *Psidium cattleianum*. 1939.

Fair-sized rather loosely branched tree; fruit ellipsoidal to pyriform, narrowed to the base, clear yellow, with skin glossy, tender, and with flesh somewhat translucent, acid even when ripe.

Type of the variety is Degener, 12275 from Hawaii, in the herbarium of Otto Degener, Honolulu.

This variety includes the plant described and figured by Raddi, so it must be considered the typical variety of the species.

Psidium littorale Raddi var. **longipes** (Berg) Fosberg, n. comb.

P. cattleianum Sabine. Trans. Roy. Hort. Soc. 4 : 315-317, t. 11. 1821.

P. coriaceum var. *longipes* Berg, in Mart. Fl. Bras. 14 (1) : 402. 1857.

Small dense tree; fruits purplish red, becoming whitish toward center, globose or almost so, rounded at base, with skin rather dull, slightly tough, and with flesh opaque, sweet when ripe and pleasantly flavored.

Of Berg's varieties, the first names to be used in varietal rank, only var. *longipes* is identifiable from his description. The others obviously belong in this species, but their fruits are not described. Since his specimens are at present inaccessible, var. *longipes* is the obvious choice for this red-fruited plant.

This variety is to be recommended for its fruit, while the other is useful in reforestation.